## American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding for Immunizations

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Section 317 grants provide funding for immunization processes and infrastructure necessary to establish an all-inclusive immunization program for all levels from federal to local. Total ARRA funding for Section 317 is three hundred million dollars (\$300,000,000). The majority of the funds, two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000), have been allocated to allow existing grantees to purchase and provide vaccines. Additionally, funds will be used to provide program operation grants, which will assist with distribution of the vaccines and strengthen the overall program coordination. Eighteen million dollars (\$18,000,000) of the ARRA funds have been appropriated for demonstration projects for increasing the distribution of vaccines and for improving reimbursement practices at local health departments.

At the national level, \$32 million in Recovery Act funds will be used to:

- Increase information, communication, and education related to immunizations.
- Strengthen the evidence base for immunizations.
- Increase national public awareness about immunizations.
- Enhance knowledge about the benefits and risks of vaccines and vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Provide tools and education for health care providers.
- Monitor and assess the impact and safety of licensed vaccines routinely recommended for use in the United States to ensure that national vaccine policy is appropriate and effective.

The Wyoming Immunization Section will be receiving \$498,998 through the ARRA Supplemental Funding for Reaching More Children and Adults grant opportunity. Approximately \$469,972 has been allocated for vaccine purchases for uninsured adults living in Wyoming. The Wyoming Immunization Section will offer free vaccines to adults between the ages of 19 and 64 years who do not have healthcare insurance. This program will be called the "Vaccines for Uninsured Adults" program. In order to be eligible for free vaccines, uninsured adults between the ages of 19 and 64 years must visit a participating provider. Although there will be no charge for the cost of the vaccines through this program, individuals may be charged a fee for the cost of administering vaccines. Adults with healthcare insurance that covers immunizations, including Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, and private insurance would not be eligible to receive free immunizations through the "Vaccines for Uninsured Adults" program. [Note: the "Vaccines for Uninsured Adults" program is time-limited and will end once all ARRA funds have been expended or by December 31, 2010, whichever comes first.]

The Wyoming Immunization Section has not applied for competitive funding for demonstration projects due to the inability to sustain operations beyond the ARRA funding timeframe.

For more information about the ARRA Section 317 funding, visit http://transparency.cit.nih.gov/RecoveryGrants/grant.cfm?grant=vaccines.